

## Town of Keene – Regular Town Board Meeting **UNAPPROVED MINUTES**

February 10, 2026

5:30 PM – Town Hall

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### **Board Members Present:**

Joe Pete Wilson, Supervisor; Teresa Cheetham-Palen; Ann Hough; Robert Biesemeyer

**Absent:** Christopher Daly

### **Town Officials Present:**

Robyn Shumer (Town Clerk); Ryan Hall (Highway Superintendent); Savana Li (Water Superintendent)

**Town Counsel Present:** Bryan Liam Kennelly, Esq.

## **Call to Order**

The regular Town Board meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Supervisor Joe Pete Wilson.

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

## **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made to approve the January 27, 2026 meeting minutes as submitted.

**Motion:** Made and seconded.

**Vote:** All in favor, motion carried.

## **Privilege of the Floor**

No members of the public were present for Privilege of the Floor.

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## **Town Clerk Business**

- Resolution to pay all bills was made by Joe Pete; bills were reviewed, signed, and approved; Teresa Palen, Ann Hough and Joe Pete all approved, Bob abstained.
- A request was received from Lynn Shenier and Nyman Peters, non-residents of Keene, requesting permission for green burial in the Town cemetery.
- Discussion followed regarding cemetery policy, residency requirements, limited space, and past precedent.
- The Board determined the applicants did not meet eligibility requirements.

**Action:** Request denied unanimously.  
The Town Clerk will draft a letter explaining the decision.

- The Town Clerk requested approval to attend New York State Town Clerks Association annual training in Albany.
- Conference fee: \$562
- Lodging: \$155 per night (3 nights anticipated)

**Motion:** To approve travel and training expenses.

**Vote:** All in favor, motion carried.

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## Highway Department Update

- Discussion on procurement options for a new tandem axle dump truck, including stock truck versus custom chassis and body build.
  - Supply chain delays and financing implications were reviewed.
  - Additional information pending receipt of updated quotes.
  - New grader delivered.
  - Purchase price approximately \$334,000 before trade-in.
  - Trade-in discrepancy identified; staff working with vendor to resolve.
  - Grader purchase funded through CHIPS and departmental funds, consistent with asset management planning.
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## Communications / Cell Tower Lease Update

- Ongoing negotiations regarding a potential conversion of an existing lease to an easement.
  - Discussion included access issues, DOT easements, cell service reliability, and financial implications.
  - No action taken; negotiations ongoing. Any financial decisions will return to the Board for approval.
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## Water System Updates

- Booster station issues due to freezing temperatures were discussed.
  - Temporary repairs completed; one pump currently operational.
  - Rebuild option being explored; one resident impacted seasonally.
  - Water infrastructure funding updates provided; state funding progressing, federal environmental review ongoing.
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## Resolutions

**Resolution 1:** Keene Fire Department water usage rate

- Establishes yearly high-traffic water usage rate.

- Eliminates hydrant rental fee.

**Vote:** Approved unanimously.

**Resolution 2:** Keene Valley Fire Department water usage rate

- Establishes yearly high-traffic water usage rate.
- Eliminates hydrant rental fee.

**Vote:** Approved unanimously.

**Resolution 3:** Amend Keene Water Law, Subsection 7

- Adds reporting requirements for hydrant usage (Sections 7.5 and 7.6).

**Vote:** Approved unanimously.

**Resolution 4:** Amend Keene Valley Water Law, Subsection 7

- Adds reporting requirements for hydrant usage (Sections 7.5 and 7.6).

**Vote:** Approved unanimously.

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## Old Business

- Correction to organizational meeting action regarding Deputy Supervisor salary.

**Motion:** To return the Deputy Supervisor salary to \$500.

**Vote:** All in favor, motion carried.

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## New Business

Annual audit of Town books discussed; scheduling to be coordinated.

The Supervisors Monthly Report was approved.

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## Financial Matters

- 2025 operating statement reviewed.
- Transfers approved within:
  - General Fund
  - Highway Fund

- Library Fund
  - Water Fund
  - 2026 year-to-date operating statement reviewed.
  - Transfers within the General Fund approved.
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## **Executive Session**

No executive session was held.

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## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:04pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Robyn Shumer**  
Town Clerk  
Town of Keene